

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing of the above-identified application. In particular, claims 6, 7, 15, 16 and 27-31 are allowed, claims 2 and 26 are rejected and claims 4-5, 9-14 and 18-25 are withdrawn.

As indicated above, rejected claims 2 and 26 and withdrawn claims 4-5 have been canceled without prejudice. Furthermore, claims 10 and 19 have been amended to correct their dependency which was inadvertently omitted in the Amendment filed January 9, 2001. Furthermore, since withdrawn claims 9-14 and 18-25 now depend from allowable claims, Applicants respectfully submits that these claims should also be allowed.

Finally, Applicants note that the information in PAIR is incorrect. In particular, the Amendment After Final Rejection was filed on January 14, 2004 and not April 21, 2004 as indicated in the PAIR history. Attached to this Amendment is a copy of the Amendment and stamped postcard. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner correct the PAIR file history.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the current set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time.

The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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